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1962/05/14

S E C R E T

FROM MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

Sir F. Roberts

No. 838
May 14, 1962.

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Repeated for information to Washington, Vientiane, Singapore, Delhi, Bangkok, Paris, UKMission Geneva, UKMis New York

And Saving to Canberra, Ottawa, Warsaw, UKDel N.A.T.O., Wellington, Kuala Lumpur, Saigon

My telegram No. 834: Laos.

United States Ambassador told me this morning that he had used the visit he and Salinger had paid to Khrushchev in the country yesterday to impress upon Khrushchev the gravity of recent developments in Laos.

2. The occasion was a social one with families present and not, therefore, lending itself to very serious discussion.

3. Khrushchev was relaxed on Laos and did not even refer to the United States decision to send the 7th Fleet to the Gulf of Siam and to place United States troops in Thailand. He must have known of this from Washington radio, more especially as Gromyko was also present yesterday at the dacha, although not at this particular conversation.

4. Khrushchev's reply was that the Russians knew very little of what was really going on in Laos, and in any case only received their information from one side. In general he seems to have been as non-committal as Gromyko and Kuznetsov were with me.

5. Mr. Thompson deduced that perhaps the Russians had not got effective control over Pathet Lao and that it was Viet Minh

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and the Chinese who were behind the recent moves. I am not myself convinced of this. It may suit the Russians to take this line, while they see how things develop and how seriously they should take latest United States military moves.

Foreign Office please pass to Washington, Vientiane, Singapore, Delhi, Bangkok, Paris, and U.K. Mission Geneva [all Priority] and Saving to Canberra, Ottawa, Warsaw, UKDel N.A.T.O., UKMis New York, Wellington, Kuala Lumpur and Saigon as my telegrams Nos. 177, 43, 21, 17, 16, 42, 31, 13, 21, 11, 223, 69, 18, 9 and 14 respectively.

[Repeated as requested to Foreign Service posts. Copy passed to Tel. Section C.R.O. for repetition to Delhi, and Saving to Canberra, Ottawa, Wellington and Kuala Lumpur.]

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Private Secretary.
Sir H. Caccia.
Mr. Peck.
Head of South East Asia Department.

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